

- BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL-

- ANNUAL REPORT -

of the

- MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH -

- for 1949 -



TO THE CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE  
BLACKROD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Blackrod Urban District for the year 1949.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (acres) ... ..	2,392.394
Population (Census 1931) ... ..	3,599
Registrar-General's Estimate of Population mid 1949 ... ..	3,137
No. of Inhabited Houses (at the end of 1949) ... ..	999
Rateable Value.. ... ..	£12,773
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£ <del>48-19-10</del> <sup>53-4-5</sup> od.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS during the year 1949

		<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Live Births	Legitimate	45	29	16
	Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	Total	<u>46</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>17</u>

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population  
mid 1949 - 14.7

Stillbirths                      1              -              1

Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births - 21

55  
7-2-50

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Deaths	43	15	28

Death rates per 1,000 estimated civilian population  
mid 1949 - Crude - 13.7  
Adjusted - 13.3

Deaths from puerperal causes:-	Deaths	Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal & post-abortion sepsis	Nil	Nil
Other Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil
Total Maternal Mortality	Nil	Nil

Death-rate of Infants under one years of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	43
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... ..	22
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	1,000
Deaths from cancer (all ages ... ..	5
" " Measles (all ages) ... ..	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	-

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## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1949

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	-	-
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	-	1
Cancer of Breast ... ..	-	1
Cancer of all other sites ... ..	1	3
Intracranial vascular lesions ...	2	4
Heart Diseases ... ..	7	13
Other diseases of circ. system ...	1	1
Pneumonia ... ..	1	1
Premature Birth .. ...	-	1
Road traffic accident ... ..	1	-
Other violent causes ... ..	-	1
All other causes ... ..	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>15</u>	<u>28</u>

Note. There were 11 transferable deaths, and these are included in the above.

## CAUSES OF SICKNESS DURING THE YEAR

There were 20 cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year compared with 64 in the previous year. Five of these cases were Scarlet Fever, three of which were removed to Hospital. Measles accounted for 9 notifications.

## IMMUNISATION

The immunisation of children against Diphtheria is now undertaken by the Divisional Medical Officer of Health, and the children from the Blackrod District receive treatment at Westhoughton. Special transport is provided pending the provision of a clinic in Blackrod.



# CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED during 1949

Age Periods -- Years.

	Total cases all ages	0--	1--	3--	5--	10--	15--	25--	45--	65 & over	Total deaths	Total cases remov- ed to Hosp.
Scarlet Fever	5	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	9	-	3	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	5	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	20	-	6	5	4	-	-	2	2	1	-	3



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA -  
(National Assistance Act, 1948)

No applications received.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS

There is a practising Midwife in the district, and a Nurse from Westhoughton comes into Blackrod daily.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

For Smallpox - No provision

For Other Infectious Disease - By arrangement with the Divisional Health Office, cases of Infectious Diseases are sent to the nearest Hospital (on the list) that can accept accommodation.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

The Public Health Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer, and a Sanitary Inspector who is also Surveyor.

A visiting Nurse is provided by the County.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Ambulance facilities for all cases are controlled by the Divisional Health Office, Leigh, and the needs for this District are met by the Ambulance Station at Horwich.



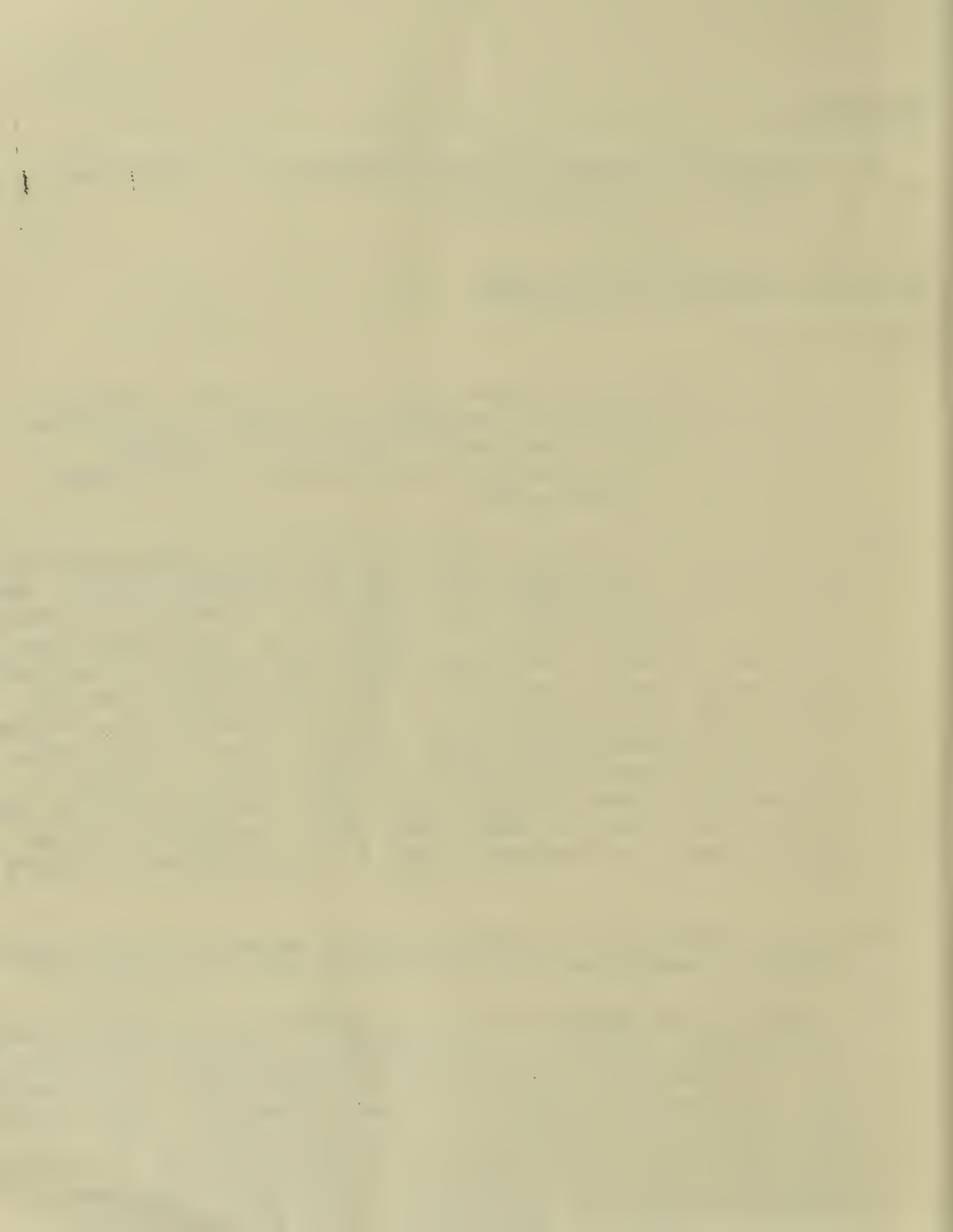
## MORTUARY.

The Mortuary situated at the Cemetery, is sufficient for the needs of the District.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION 1949.

### Water Supply

- (I). The quantity of water supplied has been satisfactorily maintained throughout the year, and on no occasion has it been found necessary to impose restrictions even though an abnormal period of dry weather was experienced.
- (II) The quality of the water has also been satisfactory apart from a complaint received from Aspull U.D.C. who obtained an unsatisfactory report of a sample of water taken from their mains. Following up this complaint, a sample of water was taken from the reservoir before treatment, and the result showed a slight bacterial count, and at the same time a further sample was taken after chlorination from the supply mains in Blackrod. This sample was found to be satisfactory. It is assumed that contamination may have taken place in the Aspull U.D. area in their own mains, probably due to a temporary low pressure period during times of heavy draw.
- (III) As a precaution against plumbo solvent action only 'tinned' lead pipes are allowed on all water pipes.
- (IV) Continuous chlorination is carried out as the water enters into supply, as a precaution against pollution, this chlorination is recorded automatically on a chart, and the amount of chlorine dose indicated. The Council have under consideration at the present time the demolition of a farm stead and cottage which is situated near the reservoir embankment, as a check against a possible source of pollution. This is considered



advisable in the light of the Central Advisory Water Committee Report on Gathering Grounds in which it is recommended that water supply from upland sources should have long storage in a reservoir followed by filtration and sterilisation. In our case, the only safeguard against possible pollution of the water is a continuous chlorination of the water as it enters the supply mains. Regular inspections are made on the Gathering Grounds to prevent pollution.

(V). The total number of Houses supplied with a piped water supply from public main:--

(a)	Direct to Houses -	992	-	3,592	persons
(b)	Standpipes	Nil		Nil	

The Local authority supply water in bulk to Adlington U.D.C. and Wigan R.D.C. and they supply water to Aspull U.D.C.

### Sewerage

The sewage is discharged at two main outfalls where it is passed through retention tanks when the grosser solids settle out and the effluent is then passed over the land for final filtration prior to being discharged into the stream. At the Scot Lane outfall the retention tanks are insufficient in size to deal satisfactorily with the amount of sewage discharged to this works, and consequently solid matter is passed through the effluent distributing pipes to be discharged on the land and on occasions blocking these pipes.

At the main outfall (Nightingale Farm) which deals with the sewage from the higher parts of the District, there is a tendency to flooding during continued periods of heavy rains and storms discharging on one section of the land owing to surcharge of the distribution pipes. Further distribution pipes are required for this land.

One small disposal plant comprising septic tank and filter has been constructed and put into operation to deal



with the sewage from 5 houses in Manchester Road, owing to there being no sewer available.

A sewer manhole at the Junction of Scot Lane with Manchester Road was found to be surcharging during heavy rain storms, and the manhole overflow was discharging sewage to an open ditch nearby. By the re-arrangement and reconstruction of the chamber, all sewage is being satisfactorily dealt with, and passed through to the works.

### Food

Regular inspections are carried out to shops and food preparing premises. All carcas meat is supplied to the shops by the Ministry of Food, the animals being slaughtered in another District. One Licensed Slaughter House is used occasionally for the slaughter of pigs for private consumers, under the pig rearing scheme. The carcasses of these animals are inspected for the Owners and advised as to their fitness for food. 6 Premises have been registered for the sale of ice-cream, and we have no ice-cream manufactured in the District.

### Scavenging

Class III Roads and District Roads are scavenged at regular intervals, other classified roads are scavenged by the County Council who are the Highway Authority for the District.

### Sanitary Inspections During the Year.

No. of Premises Visited --	200
Defects or Nuisances Discovered --	61
Notices served --	
Informal	61
Statutory	26
Legal proceedings taken --	Nil.

On analysing the number of premises visited, notices served etc. it is found that in the main, nuisances have been caused, due to defective dwelling houses, complaints



being made due to damp walls, perished ceiling and wall plaster, decayed wooden floors, leaking slate roofs decayed windows, and defective eaves gutters. These defects are due to neglect and lack of regular maintenance work over the past years, the condition of many of them are such that only for the acute housing shortage a recommendation would be made that these houses be subject to demolition and clearance orders. In the meantime every effort is being made to maintain them in a tolerable condition.

It has been found necessary to place demolition orders under Section 11 of the 1936 Housing Act on 16 unfit houses which were in a condition that further tenancy could not be allowed. These tenants have been rehoused in new Council houses.

### Offensive Trades

There are no premises in the District in which any trade scheduled as an offensive trade is carried on.

### Public Cleansing

The collection of domestic refuse is carried on by direct labour. One motor refuse collecting vehicle assisted by a horse and cart when required is employed on this work. The refuse is disposed of by filling up disused colliery shafts which is an economical and satisfactory method of disposal, and free from infestation usually associated with the disposal of refuse.

### Schools

There are three Junior Schools and one Modern School in the District. The sanitary accommodation at two of the Junior Schools and the Modern School are satisfactory. At the Scot Lane Junior School trough closets are still in use and these are in an unsatisfactory condition. The Management have been recommended to recondition these closets and to provide water closets in substitution for the trough closets.



## Bake Houses

There is one retail bakehouse in the District, this is satisfactory.

## Factories & Workshops

Number in District -- 8.

Bleachworks (Temporarily closed down as factory) -- 1.

Weaving Shed -- 1

Clogger & Boot Repairer -- 1.

Joiner -- 1.

Inspections -- 8.

One factory has been served with Notice to provide adequate sanitary accommodation for its Employees.

## Conveniences in the District

The Local Authority have provided two Public Conveniences at two important road junctions where people congregate, waiting for Public Transport. The accommodation provided in each convenience is 1 - Two Stall Urinal and 1 W.C. for Men and 1 W.C. for Ladies. Also incorporated in the building is a shelter. These Conveniences are greatly appreciated by the Public.

Privy Middens -- 27.

Closets attached to these middens -- 32.

Pail Closets -- 14.

No. of Dry Ash Pits (excluding Middens) -- Nil

No. of Fresh Water Closets -- 932

No. of Waste Water Closets -- Nil

No. of Houses at which movable ash bins have been substituted for fixed receptacles -- 5.

5 Privy Middens have been converted and 9 water closets provided.



## Houses

The Council have erected and completed 40 houses during the year. 24 - 3 bedroom type houses, and 16 Old People's Bungalows. Tenders have been accepted for the construction of a further 38 houses, 18 of which are under various stages of construction, these will be 20 Two Bedroom type, 14 three bedroom type and 4 - Four bedroom type. One house has been constructed by private enterprise.

## Chief Sanitary Requirements of the District

The demolition of unfit houses, the reconditioning of sub-standard houses and a continued building programme for the provision of new houses to replace unfit houses. Improvements to the sewage disposal systems have been reported elsewhere in the report. The conversion of existing privy middens and Water Closets provided.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Council's Officers for the kind and valued co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Yours faithfully,

L. UNSWORTH.

M.O.H.

Dalton House,  
Leigh Road,  
Westhoughton,  
Bolton.

26th June, 1950.

